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NOTES ON THE LESSER ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS, *RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS*

1. A SKULL OF *RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS* IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

BY T. DONALD CARTER AND JOHN ERIC HILL

While comparing skulls of Recent Indian rhinoceroses with skeletal remains of a fossil Chinese rhinoceros, Dr. E. H. Colbert discovered[1] a skull that did not belong to the species *R. unicornis*, although it was so labeled and had been purchased as such. The molar teeth with anterolateral buttresses, narrow horn-boss, slender premaxillae, angular zygomatic arches and small size of the skull (the specimen was adult) were diagnostic of the lesser one-horned rhinoceros. The identification was confirmed by us and by reference to figures of the skull of *R. sondaicus* in Osborn (1898, Mem. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., I, Art. 3, pp. 97, 117, 118, Figs. 14, 29, 30, 31). This specimen is thought to be of general interest, since the skull is the fourth one in the museums of the United States (Barbour and Allen, 1932, Jour. Mammal., XIII, p. 148).

The skull is that of an adult, with M_3^3 beginning to show wear and P_4^4 well worn. All sutures are obliterated except the premaxillo-maxillary and pterygo-palatine, and these are partly obliterated. The horn-boss is well developed, indicating a relatively large horn; the animal was probably a male, since the horn is rudimentary in females. The dentition is unfortunately incomplete, but the following teeth are present

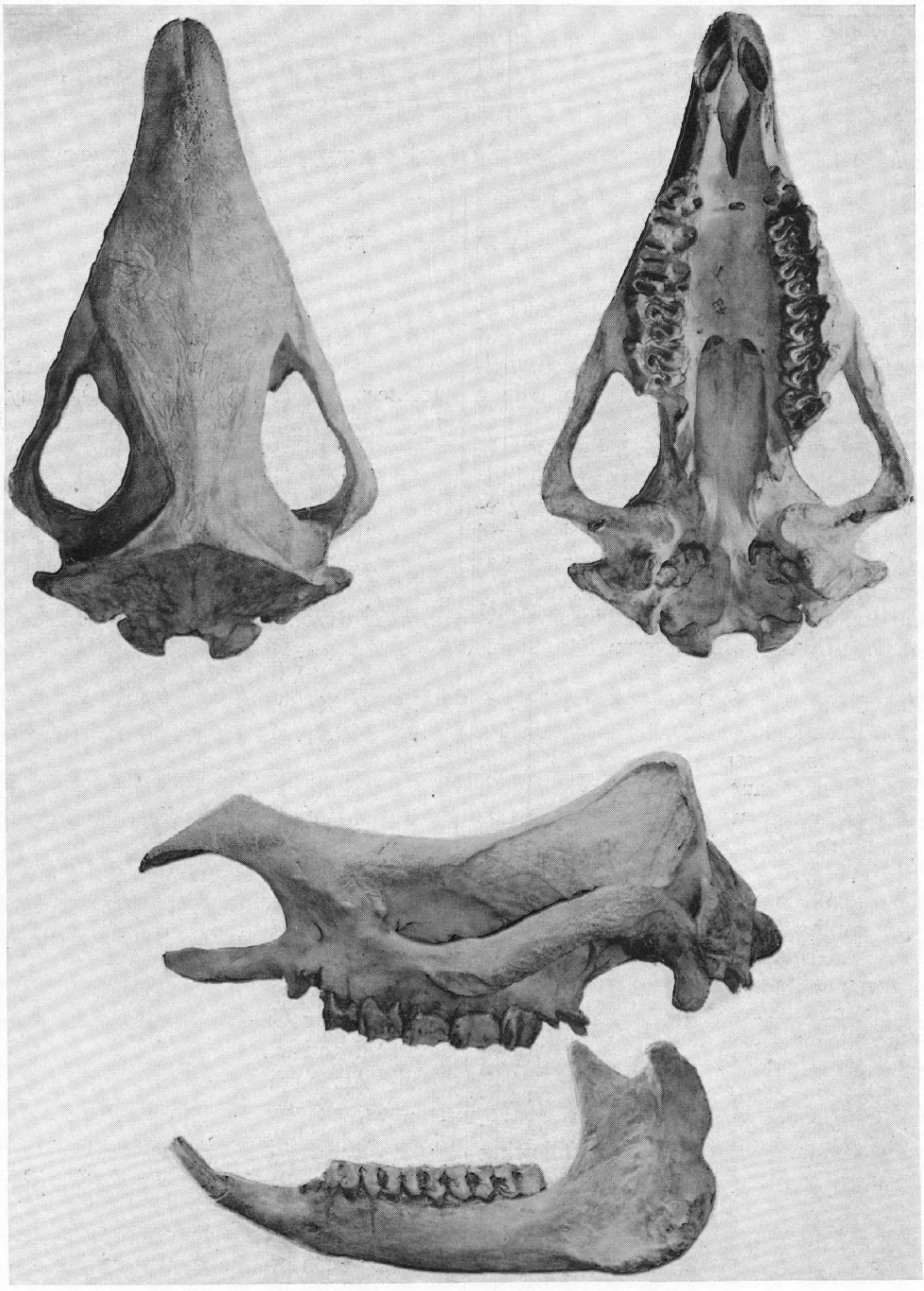
Right	Left
M^1–M^2	P^3–M^3
I, P_3–M_3	I, P_3–M_3

[1] Dr. R. T. Hatt, Cranbrook Institute of Science, correctly identified this skull in 1935 while a member of the staff of the American Museum; he did not change the label on the skull or the catalogue but changed the name in the card index where it remained unnoticed.

MEASUREMENTS—Occipitonasal length, 510 mm.; condylobasal length, 577.5; basal length, 559; palatal length, 273.5; greatest breadth horn-boss, 100.5; zygomatic breadth, 347; interorbital breadth (zygomatic breadth at anterior margin of orbit), 172; breadth across postorbital processes, 174; temporal constriction, 124; mastoid breadth, 301; height occiput, basion to vertex, 213; maxillary alveoli, 243; greatest length mandible, 491; mandibular alveoli, 232; P^3, length × breadth, 38.0 × 48.8; P^4, 43.8 × 52.6; M^1, 46.9 × 53.2; M^2, 49.3 × 55.6; M^3, 42.6 × 47.6; P_3, 35.9 × 25.0; P_4, 38.8 × 24.9; M_1, 41.0 × 29.0; M_2, 43.9 × 30.2; M_3, 44.5 × 26.1.

The skull is part of the collection of Prince Maximilian zu Wied, acquired by the American Museum as the foundation of its collection of mammals. The skull shows some knife marks, as though it had been cut off and skinned by native hunters or assistants. The only datum attached is "India," but the probable locality is eastern Bengal, near Calcutta, where the species occurred and which was accessible at that time. Although, as customary in old collections, exactness of locality and other data are lacking for most specimens in the Maximilian collection, the general region given is usually a probable one.

It might be advisable to add to the list of known skulls of this species of rhinoceros three which were examined by Carter in 1934 when he visited the Heude Museum, Aurora University, Shanghai. Henry C. Raven, of the American Museum, informs



us that in addition to the skull mentioned by Etheridge in the Australian Museum (1914, Australian Mus. Elem. Guide, p. 9), the mounted animal labeled "Indian Rhinoceros" is really *R. sondaicus* and may have a skull inside.